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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 131893
ORIGIN INT-05

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 OES-07 EPA-04 EA-09 /040 R

DRAFTED BY INT/DOTA:JBERG:DY
APPROVED BY INT/DOTA:RVANCLEVE
OES STATE PATSY T. MINK
OES/ENP:LGRANT
IO/UNP:GBHELLMAN
EA/ANP:RWILLIAMS
EPA:RWYER
----------081521Z 116209 /40
P 081458Z JUN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO HICOMTERPACIS SAIPAN PRIORITY
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

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USUN PASS KRIENDLER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OGEN, TQ

SUBJECT: INCINERATION OF HERBICIDE ORANGE

DOTA NO. 279-TT

FOR ACTING HICOM. 1.) FOLLOWING IS INFORMATION REGARDING THE SCHEDULED INCINERATION OF HERBICIDE ORANGE CHEMICAL NEAR JOHNSTON ISLAND IN JULY. PLEASE PASS THIS INFORMATION TO DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION IN THE MARSHALLS AND OTHER TTPI POSTS AS APPROPRIATE FOR RELEASE.

2.) US ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY ON APRIL 25 GRANTED A RESEARCH PERMIT TO THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE FOR A TEST
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0URN OF A CHEMICAL DEFOLIANT KNOWN AS HERBICIDE ORANGE ABOARD A SPECIALLY EQUIPPED INCINERATOR SHIP, THE MV VULCANUS. THE FIRST BURN WILL TAKE PLACE ON OR ABOUT JULY 17 AT A SITE 15 DEGREES 45 MINUTES TO 17 DEGREES 45 MINUTES NORTH LATITUDE AND 171 DEGREES 30 MINUTES TO 173 DEGREES 30 MINUTES WEST LONGITUDE. THIS IS APPROXIMATELY 120 MILES WEST OF JOHNSTON ISLAND AND MORE THAN 1000 MILES

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NORTH OF THE CLOSEST ISLAND IN THE MARSHALL ISLANDS DISTRI
CT OF THE TRUST TERRITORY.

3.) ONLY IF THE DESTRUCTION IS AT LEAST 99.9 PER CENT
EFFECTIVE WILL EPA ISSUE SPECIAL PERMITS FOR THE INCINERA-
TION OF THE REMAINDER OF THE 2.3 MILLION GALLON STOCK OF
HERBICIDE ORANGE. THE ENTIRE INCINERATION, WHICH WILL
CONSIST OF THREE BURNS, WILL BE COMPLETED BY 17 SEPTEMBER.

4.) THERE WILL BE NO DANGER TO ANY PERSONS LIVING DOWNWIND
OF THE BURN SITE. THE NEAREST DOWNWIND ISLANDS ARE MORE
THAN 1000 MILES AWAY FROM TPE BURN SITE. TECHNICAL
ANALYSES SHOW THAT AT THE REQUIRED 99.9 PER CENT DESTRUC-
TIOH LEVEL THERE WILL BE LESS THAN ONE TIMES TEN TO THE MI-
NUS TWELFTH GRAM OF TOXIC MATERIAL PER CUBIC METER OF AIR
NINETY MILES FROM THE SHIP. THERE IS NO NEED FOR ANY
CONCERN FOR ANY ISLANDS IN THE TTPI.

5.) THE SITE IN QUESTION WAS CHOSEN BECAUSE IT OFFERS AN
ENORMOUS AIR AND WATER MASS DISPERSION BASIN. AT THIS
SITE, THERE IS NO HUMAN POPULATION FOR MORE THAN 1000
MILES DOWNWIND.

6.) TECHNICAL PERSONNEL WILL MONITOR ALL ACTIVITIES OF THE
MV VULCANUS WHICH IS EQUIPPED UITH SPECIAL AUTOMATIC
SENSORS FOR SAFETY PURPOSES. AT NO TIME, WILL ITS
INCINERATION ACTIVITIES BE ALLOWED TO EXCEED VERY STRICT
SAFETY REQUIREMENTS.

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7.) HICOM WINKEL AND DISTAD DEBRUM FULLY BRIEFED ON
ACTIVITY BY OTA. PLS UNDERTAKE TO DISSEMINATE THIS INFORM-
ATION SO THAT MARSHALLESE AND OTHERS FULLY UNDERSTAND THAT
NO DANGER EXISTS TO THEM OR THEIR ISLANDS. DIRECTOR OF
TERRITORIAL AFFAIRS SENDS. VANCE

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Subject: INCINERATION OF HERBICIDE ORANGE DOTA NO. 279-TT FOR ACTING HICOM. 1.) FOLLOWING IS INFORMATION RE
TAGS: OGEN, TQ
To: HICOMTERPACIS SAIPAN
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